

**2017 -- H 5584**

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LC001925  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017**

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**H O U S E   R E S O L U T I O N**

**CONGRATULATING VIOLA DAVIS FOR WINNING BEST ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING  
ROLE**

Introduced By: Representatives Mattiello, Shekarchi, Morgan, McLaughlin, and  
Maldonado

Date Introduced: February 28, 2017

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Award-winning actress and producer Viola Davis was born on August 11,  
2   1965, in South Carolina, a daughter of Mary Alice and Dan Davis. Her family moved to Central  
3   Falls, Rhode Island, when she was two-months old and despite living in poverty as a child, she  
4   excelled at Central Falls High School, where she developed her love and passion for the arts and  
5   acting; and

6           WHEREAS, As a teenager, Ms. Davis enrolled in the Young People's School for the  
7   Performing Arts in West Warwick, where her immense artistic talents were first discovered.  
8   Following graduation from high school, she enrolled at Rhode Island College, majoring in theater  
9   and graduating in 1988. After graduating from Rhode Island College, she attended the prestigious  
10  Juilliard School and was a member of the school's Drama Group; and

11          WHEREAS, Ms. Davis earned her Screen Actors Guild card in 1996, and proceeded to  
12  act in numerous forums, including Broadway, television and motion pictures. In 2001, she won a  
13  Tony Award and a Drama Desk Award for her portrayal of a struggling mother in King Hedley II.  
14  She won another Drama Desk Award for her performance in the 2004 Off-Broadway Production  
15  of Intimate Apparel; and

16          WHEREAS, In 2008, Ms. Davis earned a key role in the film "Doubt" alongside Meryl  
17  Streep and Philip Seymour Hoffman, for which she received Golden Globe and Academy Award  
18  Best Supporting Actress nominations. That same year, she was inducted into the Academy of  
19  Motion Picture Arts and Sciences; and

1           WHEREAS, In 2009, Ms. Davis won her second Tony Award for her performance in the  
2 Broadway revival of the play Fences. Thanks to the universal acclaim she garnered for her stage  
3 work, she was cast in 2011 to star in the movie "The Help", a role that saw her win unanimous  
4 praise from the critics for her performance as well as a second Academy Award nomination and  
5 Golden Globe and BAFTA nominations; and

6           WHEREAS, In 2012, Viola Davis was presented with the prestigious Women in Film's  
7 Crystal Award from her friend Meryl Streep. That same year, she received a star on the Walk of  
8 Fame. Her career continued to soar as she starred in the James Brown film biography, "Get on  
9 Up", and earned a starring role as the lead character in the television show "How To Get Away  
10 With Murder". In 2015, she became the first African-American woman to win a Primetime  
11 Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama; and

12           WHEREAS, In 2016, Ms. Davis reprised her role as Rose Maxson in the film adaptation  
13 of Fences alongside Denzel Washington, who also directed the film. Once again, she received  
14 rave reviews for her performance and on February 26, 2017, she won the Academy Award for  
15 Best Supporting Actress, thereby becoming the first African-American to win the Triple Crown  
16 of Acting, winning a Tony, Academy Award and Emmy. Her eloquent and beautiful acceptance  
17 speech at the Oscars warmed the hearts of all in attendance and watching on television; and

18           WHEREAS, Viola Davis remains a big supporter of her hometown of Central Falls. She  
19 has raised and donated money to support Central Falls High School and the city's library, and she  
20 attended the 2016 groundbreaking of a community health center in the city; now, therefore be it

21           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
22 Providence Plantations hereby congratulates Viola Davis for winning the Best Supporting Actress  
23 Academy Award in 2017. We wish her continued success in all her future endeavors and thank  
24 her for her continued support of the Central Falls community; and be it further

25           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
26 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ms. Viola Davis.

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